

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Bernd LÜHMANN, et al.
Serial No. : 10/516,980
Filed : July 14, 2005
For : PRESSURE-SENSITIVE ADHESIVE MATERIAL FOR FILM
STRIPS THAT ARE CONTACT ADHESIVE ON ONE OR
BOTH SIDES, AND METHOD FOR THE PRODUCTION
THEREOF
Art Unit : 1771
Examiner : Anish P. Desai

April 16, 2008

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

I, Thorsten Krawinkel, residing at Burgwedelkamp 25, Hamburg 22457, Germany, a citizen of Germany, declare that:

I am a chemist having studied at the University of Hamburg / Germany where I graduated as a doctor rer. nat. in 1997.

I joined Beiersdorf AG, Hamburg Germany, in 1998, and am currently employed by tesa AG, a daughter company of Beiersdorf AG.

I am experienced in the field of adhesives, plastics and polymers, and am one of the inventors of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/516,980.

I have read and understand the Office Action of August 27, 2007, Dunshee U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0165477 A1 and Stempel U.S. Patent 5,492,943; and have compared the teachings of these patents to the invention disclosed and claimed in the present patent application.

The present patent application discloses and claims a pressure-sensitive adhesive for redetachable adhesive sheet strips, which are removable from a substrate to which they have become adhesively bonded, without leaving a residue behind or being destroyed, by extensive stretching in the plane of the bond.

It is understood by those skilled in the adhesives art that an adhesive which is intended to be removable from a substrate to which it has become adhesively bonded, without leaving a residue behind or being destroyed, by extensive stretching in the plane of the bond, should have a tensile strength of more than 3 N/mm².

In the present application, the Examples show that the disclosed adhesive has a tensile strength of at least 9.7 MPa (Example 5), which is 9.7 N/mm².

By contrast, the adhesives of the Stempel reference have a tensile strength of no more than 16.6 psi (Sample 2 in Example 14), which converts to 0.114 N/mm².

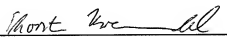
Stempel's adhesives are clearly far too weak in their tensile strength for use in redetachable adhesive strips, and no person skilled in the art would ever attempt to use them in such an application.

No person skilled in the art would ever attempt to use Stempel's adhesives in Dunshee's adhesive articles, because if this were done, Dunshee's articles would become useless as stretch removable articles, for the reasons given above.

No person skilled in the art would ever add Stempel's absorbents to Dunshee's adhesives, out of concern that this would weaken Dunshee's adhesives, as Stempel's adhesives to which the absorbers were added are far too weak to be even considered for Dunshee's application.

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed at Hamburg Germany this 16th day of April, 2008



Thorsten Krawinkel,